

Amendment to the Claims

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim ± 31, wherein the frame carries the two chain carriers.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim ± 31, wherein the frame is standing on a base or the floor.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim ± 31, wherein first chain wheels for guiding the first tool chain are disposed on the first chain carrier.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim ± 31, wherein second chain wheels for guiding a second tool chain are disposed on the second chain carrier.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim \pm 31, comprising means for neutralizing press-on forces within the frame so that first press-on forces, which are applied to a first press-on plane side and second press-on forces, which are applied to a second press-on plane side, are neutralizing each other within said frame.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim \pm 31, wherein means for neutralizing press-on forces are configured to be symmetrical with respect to ~~a~~ the drawing plane and/or with respect to a press-on plane.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim \pm 31, wherein means for neutralizing press-on forces are disposed on both the first frame half and the second frame half.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim \pm 31, wherein means for neutralizing press-on forces are disposed in a tensile region of the frame halves.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim \pm 31, comprising a force splitter by means of which press-on forces applied for drawing the workpiece are

distributed between the frame halves, symmetrically with respect to the drawing plane.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The drawing machine as set forth in claim 11, wherein the force splitter traverses the drawing plane.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim \pm 31, wherein the caterpillar conveyor comprises a gantry that carries adjusting means for at least one of the two chain carriers, said adjusting means being substantially disposed in the drawing plane.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim \pm 31, wherein the caterpillar conveyor comprises a gantry that carries first adjusting means for the first chain carrier and second adjusting means for the second chain carrier, said first and second adjusting means being substantially disposed in the drawing plane.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The drawing machine as set forth in the claim 13, wherein the adjusting means comprise at least one hydraulic cylinder for adjusting the chain carriers.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The drawing machine as set forth in claim 13, wherein the gantry is configured to be symmetrical with respect to the drawing plane and/or the press-on plane in the region opposing the press-on forces.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim \pm 31, wherein the frame and a gantry for holding the adjusting means for chain carriers are identical.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim \pm 31, wherein the two frame halves are joined together by means of connecting means.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The drawing machine as set forth in claim 18, wherein the connecting means comprise a force splitter.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim \pm 31, wherein a tensile element, which is devised to be symmetrical with respect to the drawing plane, is provided between a force splitter and/or a connecting means for the first chain carrier provided between the frame halves and a force splitter and/or a connecting means for the second chain carrier provided between the frame halves.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim ~~1~~ 31, wherein the drawing die is disposed on the frame with symmetrically formed supporting means so that forces acting onto the drawing die are introduced substantially symmetrically into the two frame halves.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The drawing machine as set forth in claim 21, wherein the supporting means include at least one cross-tie having a direction component pointing toward the frame.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The drawing machine as set forth in claim 21, wherein the supporting means include at least one cross-tie having a component departing from the drawing die and leading toward the frame, away from the drawing path.

Claim 24 (Cancelled).

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The method as set forth in claim ~~24~~ 32, wherein the press-on forces are applied above and below a press-on plane containing a drawing path and oriented vertically with respect to the drawing plane.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The method as set forth in claim ~~24~~ 32, wherein at least one chain carrier is aligned with respect to the linear workpiece, the at least one chain carrier being retained in the drawing plane by at least one adjusting means, and is moved and aligned in the drawing plane with respect to the linear workpiece to be drawn.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The method as set forth in claim ~~24~~ 32, wherein a frame or gantry opposes press-on forces needed for drawing the workpiece symmetrically with respect to the drawing plane.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method as set forth in claim 27, wherein the frame or gantry receives press-on forces between the tool chains.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method as set forth in claim 27, wherein the frame carries the two chain carriers.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method as set forth in claim 27, wherein the frame is standing on a base or the floor.

Claim 31 (New): A drawing machine for drawing a linear workpiece (10) through a drawing die, the drawing machine comprising:

a caterpillar conveyor (1) comprising a first chain carrier (2), a second chain carrier (3), a first tool chain (6) and a second tool chain (9), wherein said first chain carrier (2), said second chain carrier (3), said first tool chain (6) and said second tool chain (9) are disposed in and form a drawing plane (19) in which the workpiece to be drawn is caused to move;

a frame (15) supporting said caterpillar conveyor (1), wherein at least one of said first chain carrier (2) and said second chain carrier (3) is displaceable relative to said frame (15) via a pressure cylinder (14) rigidly coupled to said frame (15);

said frame (15) comprising a first frame half (16) disposed on a first side (18) of the drawing plane (19) and a second frame half (17) disposed on a second side (20) of the drawing plane (19), wherein said first frame half (16) is substantially identical to said second frame half (17) such that said frame (15) comprises a substantially symmetrical structure with respect to the drawing plane (19);

said first frame half (16) comprising a first main beam (23) and said second frame half (17) comprising a second main beam (24);

wherein each of said first main beam (23) and said second main beam (24) is subjected to a substantially equal tensile load (27, 28) in a respective tensile region (30) when press-on forces are applied to the workpiece (10), thereby providing for a substantially equal distribution of the press-on forces (13) which are absorbed by the frame (15).

Claim 32 (New): A method of drawing a linear workpiece (10) through a drawing die, comprising:

moving the workpiece to be drawn in a drawing plane (19) formed by a first chain carrier (2), a second chain carrier (3), a first tool chain (6) and a second tool chain (9) of a caterpillar conveyor (1), said first chain carrier (2), said second chain carrier (3), said first tool chain (6) and said second tool chain (9) being disposed in the drawing plane (19);

providing a frame (15) supporting said caterpillar conveyor (1), wherein at least one of said first chain carrier (2) and said second chain carrier (3) is displaceable relative to said frame (15) via a pressure cylinder (14) rigidly coupled to said frame (15), said frame (15) comprising a first frame half (16) disposed on a first side (18) of the drawing plane (19) and a second frame half (17) disposed on a second side (20) of the drawing plane (19), wherein said first frame half (16) is

substantially identical to said second frame half (17) such that said frame (15) comprises a substantially symmetrical structure with respect to the drawing plane (19), said first frame half (16) comprising a first main beam (23) and said second frame half (17) comprising a second main beam (24);

subjecting each of said first main beam (23) and said second main beam (24) to a substantially equal tensile load (27, 28) in a respective tensile region (30) when press-on forces (13) are applied to the workpiece (10), thereby providing for a substantially equal distribution of the press-on forces (13) which are absorbed by the frame (15).

Claim 33 (New): A drawing machine for drawing a linear workpiece (10) through a drawing die, the drawing machine comprising:

a caterpillar conveyor (1) comprising a first chain carrier (2), a second chain carrier (3), a first tool chain (6) and a second tool chain (9), wherein said first chain carrier (2), said second chain carrier (3), said first tool chain (6) and said second tool chain (9) are disposed in and form a drawing plane (19) in which the workpiece to be drawn is caused to move;

a frame (15) supporting said caterpillar conveyor (1);

said frame (15) comprising a first frame half (16) disposed on a first side (18) of the drawing plane (19), a second frame half (17) disposed on a second side (20) of the drawing plane (19) and a cross bar (21) joining said first frame half (16) and said second frame half (17), wherein said first frame half (16) is substantially identical to said second frame half (17) such that said frame (15) comprises a substantially symmetrical structure with respect to the drawing plane (19);

a first pressure cylinder and a second pressure cylinder (14) coupled to said frame (15), at least one of said first pressure cylinder and said second pressure cylinder disposed on said cross bar (21), wherein said first pressure cylinder (14) displaces said first chain carrier (2) relative to said frame (15) and said second pressure cylinder displaces said second chain carrier (3) relative to said frame (15);

wherein press-on forces (13) departing from the first and second pressure cylinders (14) are absorbed by said frame (15) in a substantially equally distributed manner with one half of the press-on forces absorbed by the first frame half (16) and one half of the pres-on forces absorbed by the second frame half (17).

Claim 34 (New): A method for drawing a linear workpiece (10) through a drawing die, comprising:

moving the workpiece to be drawn in a drawing plane (19) formed by a first chain carrier (2), a second chain carrier (3), a first tool chain (6) and a second tool chain (9) of a caterpillar conveyor (1), said first chain carrier (2), said second chain carrier (3), said first tool chain (6) and said second tool chain (9) being disposed in the drawing plane (19);

providing a frame (15) supporting said caterpillar conveyor (1), a first pressure cylinder coupled to said frame (15) and a second pressure cylinder (14) coupled to said frame (15), said frame (15) comprising a first frame half (16) disposed on a first side (18) of the drawing plane (19), a second frame half (17) disposed on a second side (20) of the drawing plane (19) and a cross bar (21) joining said first frame half (16) and said second frame half (17), at least one of said first pressure cylinder and said second pressure cylinder disposed on said cross bar (21), wherein said first frame half (16) is substantially identical to said second frame half (17) such that said frame (15) comprises a substantially symmetrical structure with respect to the drawing plane (19);

displacing said first chain carrier (2) relative to said frame (15) with said first pressure cylinder (14); and

displacing said second chain carrier (3) relative to said frame (15) with said second pressure cylinder (14);

absorbing press-on forces (13) departing from said first and second pressure cylinders (14) with said frame (15) in a substantially equally distributed manner with one half of the press-on forces absorbed by said first frame half (16) and one half of the pres-on forces absorbed by said second frame half (17).